

# MEDICAL WASTE SHARPS

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Improper disposal can result in serious harm to humans, animals, and the environment.



**SAFE DISPOSAL**

**CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS**

# WHAT ARE SHARPS?

Sharps include hypodermic needles, syringes or intravenous (IV) tubing with needles attached, scalpel blades, and lancets that have been removed from the original sterile package.

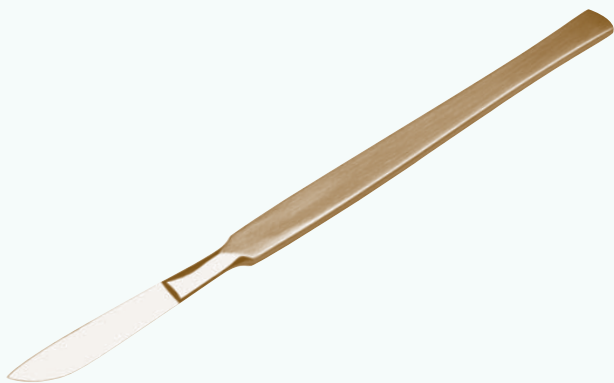
## WHY IS IMPROPER DISPOSAL DANGEROUS?

Throwing loose or containerized sharps into your trash can hurt the people who handle your garbage and others who may come into contact with them. If you use syringes for any medical condition, or if you use any other sharps, be sure to dispose of them properly. Diseases such as hepatitis B and C and HIV can result from an accidental needle stick.

## HOW CAN I SAFELY DISPOSE OF SHARPS?

- Return sharps to participating pharmacies. Many pharmacies that sell sharps containers also dispose of the containers and may include the disposal cost in the purchase price. Ask before buying. For a list of these pharmacies, visit [www.clark.wa.gov/recycle/publication.html](http://www.clark.wa.gov/recycle/publication.html) and click on Participating Pharmacy Disposal List.
- Return sharps to your physician. Ask your physician if he/she will take used containerized sharps for disposal.
- Take to one of two county transfer stations.
- Talk to your trash collector. If requested, some Clark County trash companies will pick up used, containerized sharps from your home.

*For disposal locations and collection information, please see back of brochure.*



## TRANSPORTING SHARPS FOR DISPOSAL

Use an approved sharps container. If an approved container is not available, use one with a well-secured lid, preferably a screw top. Rigid plastic containers are best—for example, plastic milk, juice, or soft drink bottles. Avoid using glass which may shatter or an aluminum can which may be crushed. If using a non-approved rigid sharps container, such as an empty 2-liter bottle, please label it, **WARNING SHARPS—DO NOT RECYCLE**.

Never overfill a sharps disposal container; no materials should be sticking out of the top.

Place the items into a designated sharps disposal container immediately following use.

Never force materials into a sharps disposal container.

### **REMEMBER!**

Call before transporting sharps. Not all disposal sites accept them.

Do not place loose or containerized sharps into your trash container or recycling bins.

Solid Waste Planning and Programs are a cooperative effort of Clark County, Vancouver, Camas, Washougal, Battle Ground, Ridgefield, Yacolt, and La Center.



## HOW CAN I SAFELY DISPOSE OF SHARPS?

Take sharps to one of the following solid waste collection facilities:

### **Central Transfer and Recycling Center**

11034 N.E. 117th Avenue, Vancouver

(360) 256-8482

Monday – Friday, 6 A.M. – 6 P.M.

Saturday & Sunday, 8 A.M. – 4 P.M.

### **West Van Materials Recovery Center**

6601 N.W. Old Lower River Road, Vancouver

(360) 737-1727

Monday – Friday, 6 A.M. – 6 P.M.

Saturday, 8 A.M. – 4 P.M.

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For more information about unwanted medical waste and other household hazardous wastes, please call (360) 397-6118 ext. 4352 or visit [www.clark.wa.gov](http://www.clark.wa.gov) and click on Solid Waste and Recycling.



For an alternative format, contact the Clark County ADA Compliance Office.  
Voice (360) 397-2025 TTY (360) 397-2445 E-mail [ADA@clark.wa.gov](mailto:ADA@clark.wa.gov)



Recycled



Recyclable

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